

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method of removing polymer adhered to a sidewall of an etched metal layer formed on a substrate, comprising:

(a) dissolving said polymer by providing chemicals onto a surface of said substrate; and

(b) rinsing said chemicals out of said substrate by providing pure water onto a surface of said substrate,

wherein at least a part of said step (a) is carried out in oxidation atmosphere.

2. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said steps (a) and (b) are carried out in oxidation atmosphere.

3. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step (a) is carried out in oxidation atmosphere from the beginning or middle thereof till said step (b) starts.

4. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said oxidation atmosphere is established after said polymer is dissolved by said chemicals until said sidewall appears.

5. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step of (c) rotating said substrate to splash said chemicals out of said substrate by virtue of centrifugal force, said step (c) being carried out between said steps (a) and (b).

6. (original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said step (c) is carried out in oxidation atmosphere.

7. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the step (d) of drying said substrate, said step (d) being carried out after said step (b).

8. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step (a) is carried out in inert atmosphere except while said step (a) is carried out in oxidation atmosphere.

9. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said steps (a) and (b) are repeatedly carried out.

10. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metal layer is an aluminum layer.

11. (original) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said aluminum layer contains copper.

12. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a barrier layer is formed on said metal layer.

13. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said chemicals is ammonium fluoride.

14-34. (canceled)